

**JUDGE BAER**

**13 CV 5692**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

JOSEPH MARTINEZ,

Plaintiff,

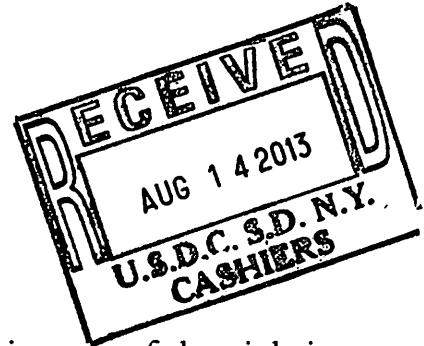
-against-

CITY OF NEW YORK; and JOHN and JANE DOE 1 through 10, individually and in their official capacities (the names John and Jane Doe being fictitious, as the true names are presently unknown),

Defendants.

**COMPLAINT**

Jury Trial Demanded



**NATURE OF THE ACTION**

1. This is an action to recover money damages arising out of the violation of plaintiff's rights under the Constitution.

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

2. This action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 and 1988, and the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

3. The jurisdiction of this Court is predicated upon 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1333.

4. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 (b) and (c).

**JURY DEMAND**

5. Plaintiff demands a trial by jury in this action.

**PARTIES**

6. Plaintiff Joseph Martinez (“plaintiff” or “Mr. Martinez”) is a resident of New York County in the City and State of New York.

7. Defendant City of New York is a municipal corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York. It operates the NYPD, a department or agency of defendant City of New York responsible for the appointment, training, supervision, promotion and discipline of police officers and supervisory police officers, including the individually named defendants herein.

8. At all times relevant defendants John and Jane Doe 1 through 10 were police officers, detectives or supervisors employed by the NYPD. Plaintiff does not know the real names and shield numbers of defendants John and Jane Doe 1 through 10.

9. At all times relevant herein, defendants John and Jane Doe 1 through 10 were acting as agents, servants and employees of the City of New York and the NYPD. Defendants John and Jane Doe 1 through 10 are sued in their individual and official capacities.

10. At all times relevant herein, all individual defendants were acting under color of state law.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

11. At approximately 8:45 p.m. on August 9, 2012, plaintiff was lawfully present in the vicinity of 95 Old Broadway in New York, New York.

12. Plaintiff was with a friend who, along with a mechanic, was in the process of repairing an automobile.

13. Without reasonable suspicion, the defendant officers stopped and unlawfully searched Mr. Martinez, his friend and the mechanic.

14. No contraband was recovered.

15. The officers then handcuffed Mr. Martinez, threw him against a car, falsely arrested him and took him to a police precinct.

16. At the precinct the officers falsely informed employees of the New York County District Attorney's Office that they had observed plaintiff in possession of contraband and prepared false police paperwork, including an arrest report, to this effect.

17. At no point did the officers observe plaintiff in possession of contraband.

18. After approximately five hours, plaintiff was taken to Manhattan Central Booking, also known as the Tombs.

19. Plaintiff was held at the Tombs for approximately ten hours before he was released without seeing a judge.

20. Upon information and belief, the District Attorney declined to prosecute plaintiff.

21. Plaintiff suffered damage as a result of defendants' actions. Plaintiff was deprived of his liberty, suffered emotional distress, mental anguish, fear, pain, anxiety, embarrassment, humiliation, and damage to his reputation.

**FIRST CLAIM**  
**Unlawful Stop and Search**

22. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation as if fully set forth herein.

23. Defendants violated the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments because they stopped and searched plaintiff without reasonable suspicion.

24. As a direct and proximate result of this unlawful conduct, plaintiff sustained the damages herein before alleged.

**SECOND CLAIM**  
**False Arrest**

25. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation as if fully set forth herein.

26. Defendants violated the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments because they arrested plaintiff without probable cause.

27. As a direct and proximate result of this unlawful conduct, plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

**THIRD CLAIM**  
**Unreasonable Force**

28. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation as if fully set forth herein.

29. The defendants violated the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments because they used unreasonable force on plaintiff.

30. As a direct and proximate result of this unlawful conduct, plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

**FOURTH CLAIM**  
**Denial Of Constitutional Right To Fair Trial**

31. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation as if fully set forth herein.

32. The individual defendants created false evidence against plaintiff.

33. The individual defendants forwarded false evidence to prosecutors in the New York County District Attorney's office.

34. In creating false evidence against plaintiff, and in forwarding false information to prosecutors, the individual defendants violated plaintiff's right to a fair

trial under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth, Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution.

35. As a direct and proximate result of this unlawful conduct, plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

**FIFTH CLAIM**  
**Failure To Intervene**

36. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation as if fully set forth herein.

37. Those defendants that were present but did not actively participate in the aforementioned unlawful conduct observed such conduct, had an opportunity prevent such conduct, had a duty to intervene and prevent such conduct and failed to intervene.

38. Accordingly, the defendants who failed to intervene violated the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments.

39. As a direct and proximate result of this unlawful conduct, plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

**SIXTH CLAIM**  
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40. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation as if fully set forth herein.

41. This is not an isolated incident. The City of New York (the “City”), through policies, practices and customs, directly caused the constitutional violations suffered by plaintiff.

42. The City, through its police department, has had and still has hiring practices that it knows will lead to the hiring of police officers lacking the intellectual capacity and moral fortitude to discharge their duties in accordance with the constitution and is indifferent to the consequences.

43. The City, through its police department, has a *de facto* quota policy that encourages unlawful stops, unlawful searches, false arrests, the fabrication of evidence and perjury.

44. The City, at all relevant times, was, upon information and belief, aware that these individual defendants routinely commit constitutional violations such as those at issue here and has failed to change its policies, practices and customs to stop this behavior.

45. The City, at all relevant times, was aware that these individual defendants are unfit officers who have previously committed the acts alleged herein and/or have a propensity for unconstitutional conduct.

46. As a direct and proximate result of this unlawful conduct, plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, plaintiff respectfully requests judgment against defendants as follows:

- (a) Compensatory damages against all defendants, jointly and severally;
- (b) Punitive damages against the individual defendants, jointly and severally;
- (c) Reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1988; and
- (d) Such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

DATED: August 14, 2013  
New York, New York

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